THE

FRENCH KINGES

DECLARATION VPON THE RI- OT, FELONIE, AND REBELLI-

ON OF THE DVKE OF MAYENNE,

& the Duke and Knight of Au-

malle, and all their

assistantes.

Wherunto is adioyned

Another Declaration of the same

King, against the townes of Paris, Orleance, Amyens, and Abbeuille and their adherentes,

Faithfully translated out of the French.

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THE KINGES DECLARATION

vpon the Ryot, Felonie, & Rebellion of the Duke of Mayenne, the Duke and Knight of Aumalle and their assistants.

HENRY by the grace of God king of Fraunce, and Poland, to all men present and to come, greeting. Whereas there is no commaundement of God Religion, or humaine law that can excuse the subiect, for taking armes without the decree or permission of his soueraigne to whom it hath pleased his Deuine goodnesse, to giue all authoritie ouer him, & to whom onely he hath reserued the sword of power, to vse for the preseruation of the good, and the punishment and correction of the bad, what may be thought of that subiect, that taketh armes against his owne most Christian, lawfull and naturall king? For in case this crime be abhominable in the sight both of God and man, and ought to redound to the shame and confusion of such as commit the same, then is there among all Christians no name odious enough for the Frenchmen, if through disloyaltie, riots, and fellonie they continue not the children of their fathers, those auncient Frenchmen, who so vertuously with the perill of their

owne liues haue obteyned and bene noted among all nations in the world to be the faithfullest and most loyall to their kinges.

Againe if to this so horrible a crime there may be added any encreaſe in reſpect of ſuch bondes, benefites, and particular gratifications receaued by the ſubiect that armeth himſelfe againſt his benefactor and lawfull and naturall king, then are the Duke of Mayenne and the Duke and Knight of Aumalle worthy that name, which as yet is not in vſe. And as their rebellion exceedeth all meaſure and example, ſo ought they likewiſe to be termed the moſt vnfaithfull and diſloyall in this world, alſo to leaue to their poſteritie this note of their ingratitude and rebellion, as a beautifying of the loyaltie of ſuch as remayne ſtedfaſt in their fidelitie, and iuſt and lawfull obedience, which God commaundeth them to beare and yeld to their king.

All this notwithſtanding, ſo farre did our clemencie and good will extend, that endeuoring to forget all former matters and iuſt occaſions, that they had miniſtred vnto vs, to entreate and chaſtiſe them according to the deſertes of their diſloyaltie, euen of our ſelues ſeeking their ſafetie, with the care of their woundes through our owne, yea and the preſeruation of their liues and honor, with the expenſe of our owne authoritie. We haue of late dayes ſent vnto them ſundry and many tymes, diuers of our good & faithful ſeruants & ſubiects, with our expreſſe letters, as alſo ſince our Herehaughts of armes to giue thē to weet of our good & holy entent, withall that we were ſtil ready not only to forget all matters paſt, but alſo to receaue thē into our gracious fauor & cheriſh & embrace thē as our good & loyall ſubiects, ſo lōg as they ſhould performe their duties & ſuch their ſubmiſſiōs as iuſtly they owe vnto vs. Neuertheles euē as an ambitious & treacherous ſoule is vtterly vncompatible of his Gods

aſſiſtance

assistance, & through infidelitie is no longer capable of such reason as might cõteine or reduce him to his duety: As also the Spyder, which is norished with the same licour where out the Bee gathereth both hony and waxe, doth neuertheless conuert the same into poison, so our goodnes & clemency infused into the harts of such persons, abandoned both of God and his holy spirit, are conuerted into corruption, but not into that substãce which they ought therof to take, for in liew of humbling themselues as they ought, & not cõfessing their faults, they are growen more proud, & haue plunged themselues in the destruction of both soules, liues, honors and credits, together with whatsoeuer their domesticall goods, by seasing vpon our townes and castels, and through their trachery and rebellion, enterprising against our authoritie, our Magistrates, our good and loyall subiects and seruantes, yea, euen against our Prelates, Bishops, and other Cleargie men, whõ they haue imprisoned, robbed, ransomed, & by torment enforced to resigne their benefices to their partakers, without respect of desert, or so much as quality, as being contented that they were partakers in their wickednes, with al other vnreasonable means of hostility, rebellion, and fellony, & al this vnder pretence and colour of religion & godlines, as if themselues could so much as once approch to ours, or to that of so in any good & honorable persons, whom they persecute as guilty, only because they be their kings faithful seruantes and subiects, & wil not damne thẽselues, or haue any pottiõ in their detestable rebellion stil hauing in their mouthes that vvhich is fartheſt from their harts, making a vaile and cloake of Gods honor thereby to resist his expresse vvord, and by their ambition, fellony, and treachery, to subuert the Catholicke, Apostolicke, and Romish religion, as heretofore they haue sundrie times done, by seasing vpõ our tovvnes & munitions, thereby to diuert & hinder vs vvhen vve vver

beſt diſpoſed and moſt reſolute in our owne perſon to warre vpon the heretickes, as alſo they would be very ſory there ſhould be no more in France, leaſt thereby their ambitious purpoſes ſhould haue no farther colour.

And albeit through Gods grace we be not bound to geue accompt of our actions to any but himſelfe, yet to the ende the ſimplicitie of ſome of our ſubiectes be not through their falſe ſuggeſtions abuſed and that they ſhould wrongfully imagine the late Duke of Guiſe to haue bene puniſhed for being the protector and defender of the Catholicke Apoſtolicke and Romiſh Religion, or for his good affection to the commons, and that in reſpect thereof the ſaid Duke of Mayenne, Duke and Knight of Aumalle, and their aſſociates may haue had great and lawfull occaſion to vnite themſelues, as well for their own particular preſeruation, together with the maintenaunce of Religion, as for the reuenge of him that dyed for them, as they doe report whereby to ſtirre vp and ſeduce our ſubiects and to cloake their ambitious rebellion. Our pleaſure is thereby fullie to giue them, to vnderſtand that wickedly they haue ſought to couer their diſloyaltie with the honour of God, the increaſe of Religion and affection to the common wealth: for not to ſtay vpon the particularities of the ſaid Duke of Guiſe and his brothers liues, the memory whereof is but to freſh yet in this Realme, eſpecially among ſuch as were beſt acquainted with them, & not to waſt ſo much time about the writing thereof, it ſhall ſuffiſe vs onely to ſay that a few daies before the Duke of Guiſes death, the ſaid Duke of Mayenne ſent vs word by an honorable Knight, Syr Alphonſo Corſe, whom he ſent to vs, that it was not enough for his brother to weare beades about his necke, but that alſo it was requiſite he ſhould haue a ſoule or conſcience: that we ſhould looke well to our ſelues: that it were good himſelfe the ſayd Duke of Mayenne, or the

ſaid

ſaid Knight ſhould come to aduertiſe vs, and that the terme was ſo ſhort, as it was to be feared he could not arriue time enough. As alſo we haue not loſt the remembrances and letters conteyning his practiſes and procuring of amitie with the king of Nauarre, aud the heretickes, as well within the Realme as without, vpon what ſoeuer conditions in caſe they would promiſe him their amitie and aſſiſtance for his eſtabliſhment.

It is likewiſe ſufficiently knowen what penſions he receaued from ſtraungers, vpon what promiſes, and to what end: & his confederates with ſuch as he did moſt condemne before men as fauorers of hereſie, are not vnknowen to any, but thoſe that liſt not to know the ſame. Theſe be thoſe notable actes that he hath taken out of the liues of the Apoſtles and Gods commaundementes, for the preſeruation of the Catholicke Apoſtolicke, and Romiſh Religion and the relief of the people: whereas contrariwiſe it is well knowen where abouts our armies were employed, that our intent was this ſpring perſonally to haue gone forward, and that there was no let in vs, why the ſaid Duke of Mayne ſhould not warre vpon the heretickes, as well as our deare and faithfull Coſin the Duke of Neuers, who had yet continued our enterpriſe, had not our forces bene diuerted by the ſaid Duke of Mayenne and the Duke and Knight of Aumalle, as already the ſaid Duke of Aumalle did the like the laſt yeare by ſurpriſing our Townes in Picardie: and it may be ſaid by the workes of their handes, that the Huguenots had neuer found ſo great fauour, neither this poore Realme ſuch miſery and oppreſſion, but in the ſoule and life of the late Duke of Guiſe, the Duke of Mayenne, and the Duke and Knight of Aumalle: As for the relief of the people let the preſent eſtate of this Realme be conſidered, the loſſes & deſtructions that it hath encurred ſince the yeare 1585 when the ſaid late Duke of Guiſe, with the aforeſaid of

Mayenne and Aumalle tooke armes againſt vs & our au-
thoritie, & let the imminent deſtruction of this realme be
deemed by ſuch occurrẽces as haue happened ſince that
time, & ſo compared with the former yeares of 83. & 84.
as alſo the order that we had begon to take & eſtabliſhe
in this our ſayd Realm to the honor of God, & the eaſe of
our people, and agree their relief and the charges of the
warre with the actions of the ſaid late Duke of Guiſe, and
the aforenamed, who ſince that time neuer laid aſide
their weapons, ſometimes vnder one pretence & ſome-
times vnder an other, note alſo the countenaunce of the
ſayd late Duke of Guiſe and his aſsiſtantes when we, con-
trary to his expectation, graunted vnto the deputies of
our Eſtats, the diſcharge and reductions of tallages to
the ſtate they were in An. 1576. alwayes prouided that
they would miniſter meanes to ſupply the ſtocke and ſa-
tisfie the enterteinement of the Royall dignitie and the
eſtate, and to proſecute the warre which they all had
ſo ſolemnely deſired and ſworne, wherein them ſelues
ſhould by our decree, haue the adminiſtration of the
coyne, as they had promiſed vs: for at that tyme on
the one ſide he diſſwaded vs from doing it, willing vs not
to abaſe our authority ſo far, but to make our ſelues to be
beloued, and on the other ſide he vrged his partakers to
proceede in ſuch their inſtant ſuites, yet not vpon any
earneſt deſire thereto, but rather to bring vs either into
neceſſitie or into hatred with our ſaid ſubiectes, with firm
reſolution, vpon our refuſall, to breake vp the Eſtates,
vpon ſo plauſible a grounde to the people and him ſelfe
to reape the honour and thankes for that whiche he
leaſt meant, reiecting vpon vs the enuie for that which
we extremely deſired: and whiche we did vpon our
great affection to the relief of our ſubiectes, ſo farre as
in vs might lye, and that the preſeruation of our Eſtate
woulde permitte, euen contrary to his aduiſe and

counsell, and all such perswasions as he vsed either by him selfe or his to the contrary.

Also in respect of his behauiours toward vs, after we had remitted and pardoned al his former transgressions, his rash arrogancie was growen to be such, that the opinions in our Counsell were no longer free, he made him selfe to be beleeued. The execution also of sentences and iudgementes giuen in our soueraigne Courtes, agaynst the most lewde and guiltie in this lande was deferred in that they could not be caught, and yet were they safe in his trayne and chamber, yea and he procured them to be lodged in our Court, so as they were the honestest men & most zealous Catholickes of this Realme, if once they were his partakers: And contrarywise the honestest, and best Catholicque was an hereticque, or at the least a Politicque, in case hee would not sweare and take parte in their treason.

Hee likewise did all that hee might, that euerye man might know (and it was one of his pollicyes) that he could doe what hee would: and that we had euen cast our selues into his armes, so farre foorth as to cause such rumours to bee spread throughout our Prouinces, and to face the Deputies of our Generall Estates, whiche woulde not depende vppon him, and alter their bookes at his pleasure, albeit there were but ouer manye such chosen and nominated through his violence. Witnesse that dayly at set houres there was in his chamber a Counsell holden of matters propounded, also what should be concluded in the Estates by purchase, driftes or violence according as the sayd Duke of Guise and his partakers had resolued, euen in the face of the world, yea and he boasted of it, and that there was no greater safetie then in his protection, likewise that it was a poinct of treason, to

be our faithfull ſeruant, giuing out as a badge of iniurie this terme HE IS ROYALL, and for a badge of honor, HE IS A GVISART. He ſought vniuſtly to command ouer him, whom God had conſtituted in all authoritie, & ſoueraign power ouer him, & endeuored by the meer benefites, honors and authoritie, which his king had beſtowed vpon him to take from him both crowne & life, at the leaſt ſo ſoone as he had founde meanes ſomewhat better to eſtabliſh his authoritie then as yet it was, if peraduenture he could haue graunted vs ſo long life: for it is moſt certaine and ſufficiently verified that he had already taken ſuch order for his drifts that he accompted him ſelfe Maiſter of our Caſtle and perſon, yea he had vnlawfully ſeaſed vpon the keyes, euen of our Chambers: The cõuenient weapons for the execution of his practiſe and vnfit for any other warrelick exploict were found, albeit his fauorers had vſed all meanes to conuey them away, ſo to take away all notice thereof, and his men were round about vs. The companies of our ordinaunces whom we had ordeyned for the ſafetie of our ſelues, and our eſtates were by him diſmiſſed, yea ſo farre did he proceede as by his letters ſigned by himſelfe and ſealed, with his ſeale of armes, the inhabitantes of Remorantine were exempted from receauing a part of the Lord of Souurays companie whom we had there ordeyned: as alſo he tooke them into his protection and ſafegarde, contrary to our letters patentes vpon the partition, that we had made with him ſelfe: expreſſely forbidding the generall Commiſſarie for victuals throughout our Realme, to take from them any victuals, for the ſaid company or any other.

Againe the more to ſhewe that he would no longer depend vpon any other then him ſelfe, ſuch was his preſumption, in the cloſet and preſence of the late Queene, our moſt honorable Lady and good mother, and ſundry other Princes and Lordes there preſent, as when the treſ-

paſſes

paſſes of treaſons came to be propounded, to the ende to be renewed and ſworne vnto in full aſſembly of our Eſtats, to aunſwere vs moſt impudently that he would not doe any thing, neither would ſweare thereto: but that if he tranſgreſſed we ſhould cauſe him to be puniſhed: and yet all this notwithſtanding, together with diuers others warninges of his driftes and dealinges, dayly giuen vs by our good, faithfull and loyall ſubiects and ſeruaunts, we paſſed ouer all theſe thinges quietly, as perſwading our ſelues that our great patience and benefites, wherein we ſpared not any one gratification that lay in our power, to them and theirs, would mollifie the hardneſſe of their hartes, and reduce them to their iuſt obedience due vnto vs, conſidering the fierceneſſe of Lyons, and other the moſt wild beaſtes is commonly tamed by benefites: but as the ambitious deſire to raigne is inſatiable and infinite, and that he that offendeth doth neuer forgiue: ſo theſe mens inſolencies daily increaſed, and by an expreſſe meſſenger whō the ſaid D. of Aumalle ſent vs vve were aduertiſed that himſelfe had bene preſent in perſon, but not in will (ſaid he) in a counſell holden at Paris, wherein it was reſolued that the Duke of Guiſe ſhould ſeaſe vpon our perſon and bring vs to Paris, which notwithſtanding, we would not vpon our firſt conſiderations haue ſuch reſpect to this aduice as we ought: howbeit vpon the view of him whom ſince the aforeſaid D. of Mayenne ſent vnto vs, ſeeing alſo the terme ſo ſhort as there was no ſafetie for vs, but in the preuention of the liues of thoſe who ſought to take away ours, and to vſurpe our eſtate and Crowne: we were forced to vſe and practiſe vpon their perſons, not what through their treacherous felonie they deſerued, but according as the ſeaſon would beare that which we ought, yet would not haue done.

This was the recompence that they had prepared for our gratifications and benefites, and is at this day proſe-

cuted by these, who during their liues seemed to condēne their counsels, and did themselues giue vs vvarning of the same, to the end (as we do finde by their workes) to reserue to themselues, and to turne to their particular profit the fruite of this ambitious drift of empire, according to this ancient prouerbe. *If equitie be violable, it is to be violated for a Kingdome*, and either we haue no iudgement, or els by their actions we must beleeue as they nowe do agree together to take from vs our life and crown, which GOD hath giuen vs, so shortlie they would haue scattered it, or els fallen a debate among themselues, who shoulde enioy that which they seeke so vniustlie to vsurpe, in case they had any opportunitie to inuade it: as hauing already vndertaken authoritie to dispose, and by letters patentes to determine of the gouernement of our prouinces, and of the leueying and distributing of our treasure.

But seing pacience ought to be limitted and restrained within certaine boundes, beyond the which it can not be cōmendable in a Prince that oweth the preseruation of his honor, authoritie, & life vnto his estate and himselfe. We vpō these causes with other iust considerations vs mooving, with the aduise of the Princes of our blood, the Cardinals, Prelates, Lords, and others of our Counsel, haue declared, and by these presentes signed with our owne hande doe declare the sayd Duke of Mayenne and Duke and Knight of Aumalle to be fallen from all their callinges, offices, honors, authorities, gouernementes, charges, dignities, priuiledges and prerogatiues which heretofore they haue had and holden of vs or our predecessours kings of this land: & that all the same we haue & do at this present reuoke: also we haue and do denounce and declare them infidels, rebels, attaint and conuict of rebellion, fellony and treason in the highest degree: farther our pleasure is that as such they be prosecuted, both

they and all that ſhall aſsiſt them with victuals, counſell, comfort, aide, ſtrength or goods what ſoeuer: likewiſe againſt all their poſteritie by all meanes and rigours of the ſtatutes made againſt ſuch tranſgreſsions. Onleſſe by the firſt day of March next enſuing the date hereof, without further delay they confeſſe their fault and returne into that obediēce, which iuſtly they owe vnto vs, euen by the cōmaundement & expreſſe word of God, withſtandyng the which, they can not terme themſelues Chriſtiās: to the end wee ſatisfye our ſelues in that we haue not omitted any one curteſie, clemency, or fauour that might reclaime thē frō their offence & reduce thē to their duety. Enioyning our chief yſhers, ſergeants or other officers to ſignifie vnto them theſe preſents either perſonally & together or particularly: Alſo in caſe with ſafety they cā not do it, our wil & pleaſure is that the notice therof made at the gates or walles of their dwellings, or of the townes or ſuburbes wherein they ſhall chance to be, by our chief trōpetter: or if he can not ſafely for this purpoſe come ſo neare them, in the next borrough or village, ſhalbe effectuall and of as great force and ſtrength, as if it were done to their owne perſons. Moreouer we commaunde and adiure all our good, faithfull and loyall ſubiectes, of what ſoeuer callyng or condition they bee, by that loyaltie which iuſtly they owe vnto vs, which alſo God and their honour doe commaund, and by the aſhes and memory of their forefathers, who ſo many yeares and with ſo great paines, ſweat & labor haue purchaſed thē that precious treaſure, and immortall name of moſt faithfull to their Kings, that in this affaire of ſuch importance as is the preſeruation or ſubuerſion, not onely of our authority, but of chriſtian religion, the ſtate & thēſelues, they ouerrun the ſaid infidels and rebelles, and aſsiſt vs with their forces & power & drawe vnto vs vpon the firſt ſommons to the end to puniſh ſuch as wilfully vvil perſiſt in their rebellio

cuted by these, who during their liues seemed to condēne their counsels, and did themselues giue vs vvarning of the same, to the end (as we do finde by their workes) to reserue to themselues, and to turne to their particular profit the fruite of this ambitious drift of empire, according to this ancient prouerbe. *If equitie be violable, it is to be violated for a Kingdome*, and either we haue no iudgement, or els by their actions we must beleeue as they nowe do agree together to take from vs our life and crown, which GOD hath giuen vs, so shortlie they would haue scattered it, or els fallen a debate among themselues, who shoulde enioy that which they seeke so vniustlie to vsurpe, in case they had any opportunitie to inuade it: as hauing already vndertaken authoritie to dispose, and by letters patentes to determine of the gouernement of our prouinces, and of the leueying and distributing of our treasure.

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they and all that ſhall aſsiſt them with victuals, counſell, comfort, aide, ſtrength or goods what ſoeuer: likewiſe againſt all their poſteritie by all meanes and rigours of the ſtatutes made againſt ſuch tranſgreſsions. Onleſſe by the firſt day of March next enſuing the date hereof, without further delay they confeſſe their fault and returne into that obediēce, which iuſtly they owe vnto vs, euen by the cōmaundement & expreſſe word of God, withſtandyng the which, they can not terme themſelues Chriſtiās: to the end wee ſatisfye our ſelues in that we haue not omitted any one curteſie, clemency, or fauour that might reclaime thē frō their offence & reduce thē to their duety. Enioyning our chief vſhers, ſergeants or other officers to ſignifie vnto them theſe preſents either perſonally & together or particularly: Alſo in caſe with ſafety they cā not do it, our wil & pleaſure is that the notice therof made at the gates or walles of their dwellings, or of the townes or ſuburbes wherein they ſhall chance to be, by our chief trōpetter: or if he can not ſafely for this purpoſe come ſo neare them, in the next borrough or village, ſhalbe effectuall and of as great force and ſtrength, as if it were done to their owne perſons. Moreouer we commaunde and adiure all our good, faithfull and loyall ſubiectes, of what ſoeuer callyng or condition they bee, by that loyaltie which iuſtly they owe vnto vs, which alſo God and their honour doe commaund, and by the aſhes and memory of their forefathers, who ſo many yeares and with ſo great paines, ſweat & labor haue purchaſed thē that precious treaſure, and immortall name of moſt faithfull to their Kings, that in this affaire of ſuch importance as is the preſeruation or ſubuerſion, not onely of our authority, but of chriſtian religion, the ſtate & thēſelues, they ouerrun the ſaid infidels and rebelles, and aſsiſt vs with their forces & power & drawe vnto vs vpon the firſt ſommons to the end to puniſh ſuch as wilfully vvil perſiſt in their rebelliō

and to reſtore our authoritie, together with our eſtate into their former eminency and dignitie, to the honour of God, the preſeruation of the Catholique, Apoſtolique & Romiſh religion, and the reliefe of our ſubiectes, whereto we are reſolued to employ whatſoeuer our meanes & our owne life.

Alſo to the end no man pretend cauſe of ignorance, we haue ordained and doe ordaine that theſe preſents be read and publiſhed throughout al our ſoueraigne courts and ſeas royal, for ſuch is our pleaſure. In vvitneſſe vvherof, vve haue to the ſame ſet and fixed our ſeale, that it may remaine firme and inuiolable for euer. Giuen at Bloys, in the month of Februarie, the yeare of grace 1589. and of our Raigne 15.

Thus ſigned Henry, and vnderneath. By the King. Ruzé. Sealed vvith the great ſeale in greene vvaxe vpon laces of red and greene ſilke.

¶ THE KINGES DECLARATION upon the Riot, Felonie, and Rebellion of the Townes of Paris, Orleance, Amyens and Abbeuille, with other their adherents.

HENRY by the grace of God king of Fraunce and Polande, to all men present and to come, greeting. God who of his deuine goodnesse of nothing hath created man to his owne similitude, and all thinges to serue him: The same God hath also constituted kinges with all authoritie and soueraigne power ouer the nations, whom he hath giuen thē to rule & gouern: with this good order that they shall obey what soeuer they shall be commanded, and the Prince shall commaund what soeuer his pleasure, as to his subiectes, in such maner as it can not be denied, but that he that disobeyeth his lawfull and naturall Prince, resisteth the expresse word of God: & he that fulfilleth not his commaundements and yet termeth him selfe his sonne, is a lyer.

Now among all kinges instituted by God, we through his grace beare the title of *Most Christian*, and be the chiefest of all Christian Kinges, as also the Frenchmen

haue euermore bene noted aboue all natiõs in the world, to haue bene moſt faithfull and loyall ſeruants and ſubiectes to their kings, and to that Royall dignitie which God of his grace hath giuen vs, together with the ſword of povver, for the preſeruation of the good and the puniſhment of the vvicked: hereto haue vve added all the fauours and benefites, all the giftes, grauntes and honours, wherewith we haue bene able to beautifie enrich and augment our Tovvnes of Paris, Orleance, Amyens and Abbeuille, and neuer denyed thẽ any thing that might tend to their relief and increaſe, thereby to conteyne and ſtill moue them more and more, to that obedience vvhich iuſtly they owe vnto vs: But as the horſe pampered vp vvith the care and charges that his maſter hath beſtovved vpon him to haue him vvell tended, doth kicke his benefactor, onely becauſe he is too fat and hath bene too vvell vſed, and therefore vvill not ſuffer his maſter to take his backe, ſo the ſaid Townes of Paris, Orleance, Amyens and Abbeuille, through our great fauour aboue all the Tovvnes in this our realme & by enioying to much liberty haue in contempt of Gods commaundementes, and of too great ingratitude taken armes & riſen againſt vs their naturall and lawfull king, endeuoring by their treacherie to depriue vs of our liues & authoritie, in recompence of our liberalities, & becauſe vve had exalted them aboue their deſertes. Howbeit in conſideration that the ſimplicitie of ſome may haue bene ſeduced through falſe ſuggeſtions, and vnder pretence of pietie or Religion: vvaying alſo the innocencie of others vvhich inhabite the ſame townes, & yet were no partakers in ſo damnable coũſels, to the end not to vndoe the good through the wickednes of the bad: Al theſe conſiderations, together with our naturall clemency had procured vs not onely to forget all matters paſt, but alſo of our ſelues to

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ſeek vnto thoſe that had ſo grieuouſly offended vs, to the end to haue receiued them into our fauour, and to haue cheriſhed & embraced them as our good and loyal ſubiects, vpon the confeſſion of their faults, & ſuch ſubmiſſion as iuſtly they owe vnto vs: But in liew of acknowledging their errours and humbling themſelues, as men forſaken of God for their contempt and diſobedience againſt his expreſſe commandement, and vpon their Felonye and Riot committed againſt their lavvfull and naturall Kinge, they haue ſpitte their venoume againſt the Biſhoppes, Prelates, Magiſtrates, Nobilitie, and al ſorts of people vvithout diſtinction or conſideration of calling or crime, onlie becauſe that obeying the expreſſe vvord of God, they remained faithfull to their prince, and vvould not with them become rebelles and infidels to God and their king: yea they exceeded ſo far as to kill and violently to diſmiſſe the Curates of their charges only for exhorting the people to praye to God for their king: & as the ſaid townes are extreme in their treacheries, fellonies, and rebellions, ſo haue they not to this hower fogottē or abſteined frō any one iot of cruelltie, no not of ſacriliege: and yet wil they do worſe in caſe they be not preuented by puniſhments worthy their fellony and deteſtable rebellion. We vpon theſe cauſes with other iuſt conſiderations therunto vs mouing, haue with the aduiſe of the Princes of our blood, the Cardinals, Prelats, Lords & others of our counſell, declared, & by theſe preſents ſigned with our owne hand, do declare the ſaid townes of Paris, Orleance, Amyens & Abbeuille, fallen frō all eſtats, honors, power, gouernment, charges, dignities, priuiledges, gifts or graunts what ſoeuer they haue had of vs or other the kinges our predeceſſors, all vvhich vve haue and at this preſent doe reuoke. And vve haue denounced and declared and do denounce and declare thē to be rebels attaint, and conuict of the crimes of

Riot, Felonie and Treason, in the higheſt degree. Alſo vve vvill that as ſuch they be proceeded againſt, as vvell they as al thoſe that do inhabite among them or ſhal aſsiſt thē vvith victuals, counſell, comfort, aid, force, or goods, and againſt their poſteritie, by all meanes and rigours of any ordinances made againſt the ſaid tranſgreſsions: vnles by the 15. day of the moneth of March next enſuing the date hereof, they acknowledge their treſpaſſe, and returne into the obedience that iuſtlie they ovve vnto vs, euen by the commandement and expreſſe vvord of God, contrarie to the which, they cannot be called Chriſtians.

Further vpon the ſame penalties enioyning all officers of our Courts of Parliament, Chamber of accoumptes, generall of Aydes, chauncery, recordes of our treaſurie, chamber of moneys, preſidiall ſeaſe, bayliwickes, seneſchalſies, prouoſtſhips, elections & other bodies & companies, as well of iudgement as of our treaſury, vſhers, notaries and ſergeantes, and generally all other our officers that are in the ſayd townes, immediatly vpon notice of theſe preſents to come forth, by what ſoeuer meanes or maner and to draw vnto vs, or to ſuch other places as by vs they ſhall be appointed, and there to miniſter iuſtice to our ſubiectes, and to execute all other functions incident to their offices, the exerciſe whereof we haue ſuſpended and forbidden, and do ſuſpend and forbid in the ſayd townes together with all Courtes, Iuriſdictions, & notice of matters, declaring from henceforth to be voyde and of no effect or value, all and euery their actions by them to be done, wrought, or attempted contrary or to the preiudice of theſe preſentes: whereby we commaund our chief vſher, ſergeaunt or other officer, to ſignifie vnto them either ioyntly or ſeuerally theſe preſentes: Alſo in caſe they can haue no ſafe acceſſe thereto, we will and our pleaſure is, that the ſignification or placardes thereof ſet vs vpon the gates, walles, or ſuburbes of the ſayd

Townes

Townes by our chief Trompetter, or if he can not safely approch so neare to that effect, then in the next Borough or Village, to be effectual and of like force and strength, as if it were done to their owne persons, bodies or companies. Inhibiting and forbidding al our subiectes whatsoeuer, not to prosecute in the sayd Townes, before the said Courtes, seas or officers any what soeuer expedition, whether of iustice or otherwise, vnder payne of nullitie, as also of being denounced fauorers and adherentes to the sayd rebelles, seditious and disloyall persons.

We doe moreouer commaunde and adiure all our good faithfull and loyall subiectes, of what soeuer function or calling, by the same fidelitie vvhich iustly they owe vnto vs, and vvhich God and their honour do commaunde, and by the ashes and memory of their forefathers, vvho so many yeares and with such payn, sweat & labour haue purchased vnto them, that precious treasure and immortall name of most faithfull to their king, that in this matter, of such importance, vvhereupon dependeth the preseruation or subuertion, not onely of our authoritie but also of Christian Religion, the state, and them selues, that they ouerrunne the said traytors and rebelles, and assist vs with their forces and habilitie, and draw vnto vs vppon our first summons, to punishe all such as will persist in their treasons, and to restore our authoritie together with our estate into their former eminencie and dignitie to the honour of God, the preseruation of our Catholicque Apostolicque and Romish Religion and the relief of our subiectes, wherein we are resolued to employ vvhat soeuer our meanes together with our life. Also to the ende none may pretend cause of ignoraunce we haue decreed and do decree that these presentes bee read and published, in all our soueraigne Courtes and sease Royall, that are of the ressort of the sayd Parliament: For such is our pleasure. In wit-

neſſe whereof, we haue cauſed our ſeale to be ſet and affixed hereto, that it may remaine firme and ſtedfaſt for euer.

Giuen at Bloys in the moneth of February the yeare of Grace. 1589. and of our raigne the 15. Thus ſigned HENRY, and vnderneath. By the King: Ruſé, and ſealed vvith the great ſeale, vvith greene vvaxe vpon red and greene ſilke laces.